

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 PPTE-00 SCA-01 /012 W

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R 222055Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2389

UNCLAS LIMA 9728

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CVIS, CASC

SUBJ: REFUSAL TO GRANT RESIDENT VISA

REF: LIMA 8285 STATE 245459

1. REV. JOSEPH C. WOLD, U.S. CITIZEN PASTOR ON CONTRACT WITH PERUVIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH VISITED CONSULAR OFFICER TO DISCUSS HIS VISA STATUS IN PERU ON OCTOBER 20, 1976. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PASTOR STEVEN HORNBERGER STATIONED IN CUZCO. PASTOR WOLD'S VISA WILL EXPIRE NOVEMBER 28, 1976, PASTOR HORNBERGER'S ON 31 OCTOBER 1976.

2. ACCORDING TO PASTORS WOLD AND HORNBERGER THE U.S. LUTHERAN MISSIONARY GROUP IN PERU NUMBERS ONLY FIVE. THEY ARE PART OF THE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED PERUVIAN GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH AND TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE THE CHURCH HAS NOT INTERVENED FOR VISAS ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS. REQUESTS FOR VISAS ARE HANDLED BY A TRAVEL AGENT KNOWN TO THE CONCILIO NACIONAL EVANGELICO DEL PERU.

3. PASTOR WOLD'S WIFE RECENTLY GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY GIRL. THIS CHILD IS A U.S. CITIZEN AT BIRTH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SEC. 301(A)(3) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT. SHE IS ALSO A PERUVIAN AT BIRTH UNDER PERUVIAN LAW AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PERUVIAN DOCUMENTATION PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FROM PERU. THIS MAY PRESENT A PROBLEM SINCE PASTOR WOLD'S VISA EXPIRES NOVEMBER 28, 1976. PASTOR WOLD HAS BEEN COUNSELED TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY FOR THE APPROPRIATE REGISTRATION OF HIS CHILD WITH THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES AND ALSO TO DOCUMENT HIS

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CHILD AS A U.S. CITIZEN AND OBTAIN HER U.S. PASSPORT.

4. ALTHOUGH PASTOR HORNBERGER'S VISA EXPIRES OCTOBER 31, 1976, HE DOES NOT REQUEST THE EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION. HE STATED THAT QUOTE HE WILL BE RECEIVING A DIPLOMATIC VISA THRU CWS (CHURCH WORLD SERVICE) UNQUOTE. HE WAS NOT ABLE TO EXPLAIN HIS QUALIFICATIONS FOR A DIPLOMATIC VISA BUT AGREED TO KEEP CONSULAR OFFICER ADVISED ON PRECEDURES EMPLOYED BY CWS.

5. WE BRIEFED PASTOR WOLD AND HORNBERGER ON EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON U.S. MISSIONARIES BEHALF AND ASSURED THEM THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. WE STATED THAT EMBASSY WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE MISSIONARY GROUPS ON ALL NEW DEVELOPMENTS THRU THE CONCILIO NACIONAL EVANGELICO DEL PERU AND INDIVIDUALLY WHERE INDICATED.

6. URGED U.S. LUTHERAN MISSIONARIES AND PERUVIAN GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH TO MAKE APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL REQUESTS FOR VISAS AND PRESENT ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THEIR CONTRACTS, NUMBERS, AND ACTIVITIES IN PERU TO THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

7. ON OCTOBER 22, 1976, THE CONSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS DISCUSSED PASTOR WOLD'S CASE WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION AND EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT PASTOR WOLD HAS A CONTRACT WITH THE PERUVIAN GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LIMA. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL STATED THAT HAD THE CHURCH OFFICIALS PRESENTED PASTOR WOLD'S VISA REQUEST HE WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO GIVE HIM A NONIMMIGRANT RESIDENT VISA.

8. WE AGAIN CONTACTED PASTOR WOLD TO INFORM HIM OF THE EMBASSY'S CONVERSATION WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION AND REMINDED HIM TO FOLLOW THE EMBASSY'S COUNSEL AS EXPLAINED IN PAR 6 ABOVE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIMA09728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760397-1188
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761024/aaaaaupm.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LIMA 8285
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JAN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <01 Apr 2004 by morefirh, INA>; RELEASED <12 JAN 2005 by buchant0>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2005 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUSAL TO GRANT RESIDENT VISA
TAGS: CVIS, CASC, (WOLD, JOSEPH C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006